



MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

Heart Insignia Legislation

HOUSE BILL 4082, 4469, 4470 and SENATE BILL 301

The package of bills establishing a heart insignia on the front of the license proposes to institute a proven, effective change in how the Secretary of State approaches residents regarding organ and tissue donation and serves to enhance and strengthen our state's donor registry.

The Gift of Life Organ, Tissue & Eye Donor Registry is maintained by Gift of Life Michigan, the federally designated organ procurement organization. The donor registry is currently accessed over 40,000 times per year (approximately 120 times per day) when hospitals call Gift of Life Michigan with all deaths, at time of death, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Federal regulations also require us to work with and refer potential donors to the Michigan Eye-Bank and tissue banks.

As a result of this package of legislation:

The donor registry will increase. Other states average 40% of their population registered, but only 8% of Michigan residents are on our registry. A recent study conservatively estimated that 25% of Michigan driver license holders would be registered as donors within four years after implementation of policies similar to the other 41 states which have donor designations on their license. The heart insignia, coupled with a question at the Secretary of State upon renewal, will dramatically increase the number of registered donors in the state.

Residents will be given an opportunity to think about donation prior to renewal. Providing organ and tissue donation information to residents prior to renewal will give Michigan residents time to consider their decision before they are asked about the heart insignia at the Secretary of State.

Electronic transfer of data will reduce errors and save money. Electronic transfer of data to the Gift of Life Organ, Tissue & Eye Donor Registry will ensure that data is error free, complete and eliminate the problem of scanning damaged donor cards. Also, of the \$104,100 currently appropriated to the Secretary of State to fund the organ and tissue donor registry program, \$75,000 is spent on postage costs associated with return of signed donor registries. Electronic transfer of data would potentially eliminate these postage costs.

We thank you for your support of the remaining bill in this package, House Bill 4082, which has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. It is the linchpin bill in this package of legislation for it places the heart insignia on the front of the driver license. We are focused on the passage of all four bills to enable this popular initiative to become a reality.

A heart insignia on the front of the driver license and state identification card will provide an easy, reliable way for citizens and medical personnel to verify that a resident has registered their wish to become an organ, tissue and eye donor.

The passage of this package of legislation will enhance, support and improve the donor registry, enabling hundreds more organ and tissue transplants per year.